

Reduction in export of tea

†4335. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the figures of the tea export in the country for the last two years;
- (b) whether the export of tea has decreased in 2009 in comparison to 2008;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the prices of tea has been affected due to reduction in the export of tea; and
- (e) if so, the positive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The export of tea from India during the calendar years 2008 and 2009 is 203.12 million kilograms and 191.49 million kilograms respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is an estimated decrease of 11.63 million kilograms in export of tea from India in 2009 in comparison to 2008.

(d) and (e) Tea prices in the primary market started moving up from the middle of 2008 and continued during 2009. The primary reason for the increase in tea prices was due to the impact of drought in Sri Lanka and Kenya during the early part of 2009 and both the countries have now started recovering from the adverse effect of drought. It may be premature to intervene on the part of the Government to contain the prices of tea at this stage. On the other hand, it may be prudent to allow some more time for the market forces to stabilize the prices based on demand and supply position.

Hike in FDI limit in defence production

4336. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is seriously considering FDI hike in defence production;
- (b) if so, to what extent Government is mulling hiking the FDI limit in defence production; and
- (c) to what extent it will be helpful for meeting India's needs on terror?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.